

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172491

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, BTIO, EINV, ETRD, NI

SUBJECT:IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON COMMERCIAL VEHICLES:
JEEP CORP.

GEORGE MASSON, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS FOR AFRICA OF
JEEP CORPORATION, ASKED AF/W IF LEYLAND, VW, AND PUEGEOT
ARE EXPERIENCING UNUSUAL DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING LICENSES
FOR IMPORTS OF COMPONENTS FOR ASSEMBLING OF VEHICLES IN
NIGERIA. ALSO, DO IMPORTERS OF BUILT-UP COMMERCIAL
VEHICLES NEED IMPORT LICENSES, AND IF SO, ARE THEY BEING
OBTAINED? MASSON SAYS JEEP AGENT IN LAGOS, MEMBER OF
IBRU GROUP, CLAIMS TO BE EXPERIENCING EXTREME DIFFICULTY
IN OBTAINING LICENSES FOR IMPORTS. MASSON SUSPECTS
THAT EVEN IF LICENSES ARE NEEDED, THEY ARE NOT READILY
OBTAINABLE BECAUSE OF IMPLICIT FMG POLICY OF LIMITING
IMPORTS IN FAVOR OF STIMULATING INVESTMENT IN IMPORT
SUBSTITUTION VENTURES. IF THIS IS THE CASE, MASSON
SAYS THAT JEEP WILL TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK AT NIGERIAN
MARKET FOR PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AN ASSEMBLY OPERATION.
PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.

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